

JULY 15, 1976

THE U.N. AND TERRORISM

ANNCR: THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON ISRAEL'S RESCUE OF HIJACKED HOSTAGES IN UGANDA HAS ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY. NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS.

VOICE: THE OUTCOME OF THE DEBATE WAS NOT SURPRISING TO OBSERVERS WHO HAD FOLLOWED ITS TORTUOUS FOUR-DAY COURSE. BUT IT WAS DISAPPOINTING FOR MANY WHO HAD HOPED THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD USE THE UGANDA INCIDENT AS A CATALYST, GENERATING DECISIVE ACTION AGAINST WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS A CLEAR AND PRESENT THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. THESE OBSERVERS ARGUE THAT THE COUNCIL IN DECLINING TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL MEASURES AGAINST AIR PIACY HAS NOT FACED UP TO ITS BASIC PURPOSE UNDER THE U.N. CHARTER. THAT PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT AND MAINTAIN WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY.

HOWEVER, THE DEBATE AND ITS OUTCOME WAS NOT ENTIRELY NEGATIVE. FOR THE ISRAELI RAID PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO SPREAD ON THE U.N. RECORD THEIR VIEWS ON TWO KEY CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT. ONE WAS THE CONTENTION BY SUPPORTERS OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY AFRICAN NATIONS THAT ISRAEL VIOLATED UGANDA'S SOVEREIGNTY. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DEBATE, A BROADER RESOLUTION DRAFTED BY BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES CONTAINED A STRONG APPEAL FOR EFFECTIVE, POSITIVE MEASURES TO COMBAT AIR HIJACKINGS WHEREVER THEY OCCUR. THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN DELEGATIONS STRESSED THE DANGERS INHERENT IN SITUATIONS WHERE, AS IN THE CASE OF ISRAEL, NATIONS ARE FORCED TO TAKE DRASTIC ACTION TO PROTECT THEIR NATIONALS UNDER THREAT OF DEATH OR INJURY BY HIJACKERS.

DESPITE INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS BY BOTH SIDES, NEITHER RESOLUTION GATHERED ENOUGH VOTES FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL.

(OPT) THE BRITISH-AMERICAN PROPOSAL FELL THREE VOTES SHORT OF THE NINE REQUIRED. AFRICAN COUNCIL MEMBERS TOOK NO PART IN THE VOTE, AND ROMANIA AND PANAMA ABSTAINED. BUT, SIGNIFICANTLY, NO DELEGATION VOTED AGAINST IT. AND THE AFRICAN SPONSORS OF THE NARROWER RESOLUTION WITHDREW IT WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT IT, TOO, WOULD FALL SHORT OF THE MAJORITY REQUIRED.(END OPT)

BUT DESPITE THE INCONCLUSIVE NATURE OF THE DEBATE OF THIS WEEK, THE TERRORISM ISSUE IN THE U.N IS FAR FROM DEAD. BOTH THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN AMBASSADORS IMPLIED THIS WHEN THEY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL TAKE POSITIVE ACTION ON THE ISSUE IN LINE WITH A WEST GERMAN INITIATIVE CALLING FOR TOUGH MEASURES TO DEAL WITH WORLD TERRORISM, INCLUDING AIR PIRACY.

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